(c) The contract for consultancy services was signed on 27.11.2006 between Ministry of Environment and Forests and ATREE and was send to ATREE *vide* letter F. No. 15-1/2005-FP dated 27.11.2006.

(d) ATREE was to complete the task within a period of six months but since wider consultations were needed in this regard; ATREE may be submitting its report during September, 2007.

Revamping the National River Conservation Plan

2515. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would revamp the National River Conservation Plan;

(b) whether Government propose to nationalise any river; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Conservation of rivers is a dynamic activity with the ever increasing pollution load due to increase in population. Review of the strategies of conservation policy and identification of additional towns and rivers are undertaken by the Government as a continuous process taking into account the experience gained so far in the conservation efforts.

(b) According to the information received from the Ministry of Water Resources, there is no proposal at present with the Government to nationalise any river.

(c) Does not arise.

Environmental clearance for Dholera Port

2516. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for environmental clearance in respect of Dholera Port has been received by Government from the State Government of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the date on which it was received;

(c) whether the clearance is still pending;

(d) if so, the reasons for such a long period of pendency; and

(e) the time likely to be taken by Government for according the approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal for environmental, clearance to the All Weather Port (Minor) at Dholera was received from Government of Gujarat *vide* letters dated 3.6.2002 and 30.12.2004.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Though the proposal was received from Gujarat Government in 2002 and 2004, the additional information and clarification required for considering the proposal was received from project proponent in February, 2006. Based on which clearance was accorded in April, 2006.

(e) Does not arise.

Fishermen captured by PMSA

2517. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any possibility was explored to release around 432 fishermen of Gujarat State, captured by the Pakistan Marine Security Agency (PMSA); and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for not returning the fishing boats?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government have been taking up the issue of the release of Indian fishermen and their boats regularly with the Government of Pakistan. Most recently, Government had raised the issue with Pakistan at the Home Secretary level talks on July 3-4, 2007 in New Delhi and the two sides had agreed to release on August 14-15, 2007, eligible prisoners and fishermen and to release boats except trawlers in each other's custody. However, Pakistan released only 100 Indian fishermen on 13 August, 2007. 296 Indian fishermen and 327 boats continue to be in Pakistani custody. We have conveyed to the Government of Pakistan our concern over non-release of all fishermen and boats.

Uranium from Australia

2518. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Australia has decided in-principle to export uranium to India, subject to India agreeing to very stringent safeguards and conditions;

(b) if so, the conditionalities Australia has putforth before India;

(c) whether Australia had also put a condition to ban all kinds of nuclear tests by India, a pre-condition for further talks; and .

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) (b) Yes. The Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. John Howard, telephoned Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh recently to convey the decision of the Australian Government regarding sale of uranium to India. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed further at the official level.